

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 MCT-01 HA-05 AID-05 CCO-00

FBOE-00 OC-06 OPR-02 USSS-00 CA-01 A-01 SCS-06

OMB-01 SY-05 PC-01 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /107 W

-----069619 101356Z /45

O 101240Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6135

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0772

DEPT ALSO PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SO

SUBJ: SITUATION REPORT -- MOGADISCIO

1. THE NIGHT OF APRIL 9-10 WAS GENERALLY PEACEFUL IN MOGADISCIO, ALTHOUGH SOME SPORADIC ARTILLERY FIRE WAS HEARD, AND MOGADISCIO REMAINS ABNORMALLY QUIET AS OF TIME OF WRITING (1100Z). ROADBLOCKS ARE STILL IN EFFECT AND ARMED GUARDS ARE STILL POSTED THROUGHOUT THE CITY. FEWER CARS, BUSES OR DONKEY CARTS ARE ON THE ROAD, AND ALTHOUGH CAFES IN TOWN SEEM TO BE FULL, MOGADISCIO HAS NOT RETURNED TO NORMAL. WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF FIGHTING, NOW WEST OF THE CITY, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD SEEM THAT THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY MINOR INCIDENTS SINCE YESTERDAY MORNING. THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT MOGADISCIO ITSELF IS FIRMLY IN THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTROL, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S CONFIDENCE IS REFLECTED IN THE REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF ARMED MILITARY AND POLICE PERSONNEL PATROLLING THE CITY.

NONETHELESS, THE PRESIDENTIAL COMPOUND REMAINS UNDER HEAVY GUARD AND WE HAVE HAD REPORTS THAT MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN CHECKING INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFICATION, INCLUDING THAT OF SOME POLICE.  
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RADIO MOGADISCIO HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL OPERATIONS.

2. THE CHANCERY, THE GSO BUILDING, THE AMERICAN RESIDENTIAL COMPOUND (KILOMETRE-7) AND ALL EMBASSY RESIDENCES HAVE BEEN SECURE AND QUIET. ALL EMBASSY PERSONNEL ARE WELL AND NO RPT NO DIFFICULTIES HAVE BEEN ENCOUNTERED. TRAVEL BETWEEN THE CHANCERY AND RESIDENCES HAS POSED NO PROBLEM. WE REMAIN ON THE ALERT, HOWEVER, AND CONTINUE TO TAKE

ALL NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS.

3. WE ARE STILL VERY MUCH IN THE DARK ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING OUTSIDE MOGADISCIO, OR EVEN WHAT EXACTLY HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST TWO DAYS OR WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED. WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS THERE WAS FIGHTING IN HARGEISA. THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF RUMOURS ABOUT INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED. ONE RECURRING RUMOUR HAS IT THAT MINISTER OF FINANCE MOHAMED YUSUF WEIRA HAS BEEN ARRESTED. (THAT REPORT WAS DISMISSED BY ONE EXPERIENCED OBSERVER WITH THE WORDS, "HE'S THE SORT WHO IS ALWAYS ARRESTED IN SITUATIONS LIKE THIS.") ACCORDING TO OTHER REPORTS THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, ABDISALAM SHEIKH HUSSEIN, WAS ARRESTED FOR SEVERAL HOURS YESTERDAY AND THEN LATER RELEASED. THE MOGADISCIO RUMOUR MILL, RARELY IDLE, HAS BEEN EXTREMELY

PRODUCTIVE DURING THESE PAST TWO DAYS, AND WERE EVEN HALF THE RUMOURS TRUE, IT WOULD SEEM THERE WOULD BE FEW MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT LEFT.

4. OUR BEST GUESS AT THIS TIME IS THAT WHAT WE HAVE SEEN WAS INDEED AN ATTEMPTED COUP, ALBEIT A POORLY-PLANNED ONE. SIAD HAS NOT ONLY HAD A WELL-THOUGHT-OUT CONTINGENCY PLAN, BUT HAS BEEN EXTREMELY CAREFUL IN HIS CHOICE AND POSITIONING OF TROOPS IN AND AROUND THE CAPITAL. HE ALSO HAS AN EXCELLENT INTELLIGENCE NETWORK, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE KNEW OF PLANS BEFORE THEY COULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT. WE STILL HAVE LITTLE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT OUR INITIAL ASSESSMENT THAT THE ATTEMPTED COUP WAS LED BY SOME CONFIDENTIAL

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LOW-RANKING OFFICERS IS NOT ESSENTIALLY CORRECT, EVEN THOUGH SOME MORE EXPERIENCED OFFICERS MAY ALSO BE INVOLVED. IT DOES NOT SEEM LIKELY TO US THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY ACTIVE FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT, EITHER SOVIET OR CUBAN, ALTHOUGH SOME SORT OF ACTIVITY CANNOT BE RULED OUT.

IT IS PROBABLE, TOO, THAT IT GREW OUT OF DISCONTENT AMONGST THE MILITARY FOLLOWING THE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OGADEN, AND WE THINK IT LIKELY THAT IT WAS ALSO FUELLED BY CLAN AND PERSONAL ANIMOSITIES TOWARDS SIAD. MUCH OF THIS IS SPECULATION, BUT IT IS BASED ON WHAT INFORMATION WE DO HAVE, AND THE OPINIONS OF SOME VETERAN SOMALI WATCHERS AND REFLECTS OUR BEST ATTEMPT TO MAKE SENSE OUT OF A STILL MURKY SITUATION.  
LOUGHRAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, SECURITY CONTROLS, PLOTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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